The New
RTTY Journal©

Formerly known as RTTY, RTTY Journal, RTTY Digital Journal, Digital RTTY Journal and Digital Journal

616 W. Church St. , Champaign, IL 81620 Volume 46, Number 1

Hello. I'm Bill Henry, K9GWT. I'm the new owner of the magazine we've all read and enjoyed for almost 50 years. Many of you know me as the president of HAL Communications Corp. - and - a once-in-a-while RTTY operator. While I have written an article or two and have been associated with RTTY for 35-40 years, publishing is new to me. So, I ask for your patience - and especially your comments and ideas. By the way, I'm calling the magazine ***The New RTTY Journal***.

This magazine has a long and very illustrious history. *RTTY* started in 1953 as the newsletter of the Southern California Radio Teletype Society. Editor Merrill Swan (W6AEE) managed the rapidly growing hobby and technology for 14 years. In 1967, Dusty Dunn (W8CQ) moved the *RTTY Journal* to Michigan and also started the gatherings of RTTY folk at the Dayton Hamvention. Don Crumpton (W6KCW) and then Dee Crumpton (N6ELP) were the next owners, moving the *RTTY Journal* back to California. Dale Sinner (W6IWO) picked up the reins in 1986 and served until the magazine was sold to the ADRS in 1994. Reflecting changes in technology, the name of our magazine evolved during Dale's tenure from *RTTY Journal* to *RTTY Digital Journal* to *Digital RTTY Journal* to finally the *Digital Journal*. The society also changed its name in 1995 to the IDRA (International Digital Radio Association). Jim Mortensen (N2HOS) was the publisher and editor for the IDRA. Unfortunately, due to various problems, the financial health of the IDRA declined suddenly in 1996 and January, 1997 was the last issue of our magazine, ending a 45 year long streak of unbroken publication. The ownership of the defunct publication reverted to Dale Sinner and I purchased the assets of the magazine from Dale in 1997.

My plans for ***The New RTTY Journal*** are to continue publication in some form. However, I do not want the magazine to fail again and I must therefore learn from past problems. Conditions have changed considerably from the boom days of the 1980's and early 1990's. Some important 1998 issues are:

1. The Internet. It's here to stay and its presence has definitely affected the RTTY hobby and the fortunes of the magazine. DX and contesting has always been a strong feature of the *RTTY Journal*. In recent years, approximately half of the pages were devoted to DX articles, contest announcements, and contest results. Now we have the Internet and DX/contest reflectors. These things are fantastic. Reports of DX activity are made "real-time" - as QSO's are made. Contest rules are posted when received; contest results start appearing within minutes after the end of a contest. This is a wonderful addition to the hobby and there is NO WAY that a printed periodical can compete. However, the Internet really does not provide permanent records of contest results, rules, or reports. You could print (or digitally store) this information, but try and find the one article of interest several months later - Good Luck! On the other hand, all 45 years of the *RTTY Journal* sit on a 5 ft. long shelf and it takes only a few minutes to finger-scan a year's issues. AND - all the photos and diagrams are right there. I contend that we RTTY types need BOTH the Internet and ***The New RTTY Journal***.

2. Money: There's no two ways about it, printing and distributing a magazine costs money. If you don't collect enough money from somewhere, you can't keep printing. There are generally two sources of income in a magazine - subscriptions paid by the reader, and advertising fees from commercial firms.Many issues affected the financial fortunes of the *RTTY Journal* over the last few years. First, the Internet and low sunspots decreased the number of subscribers. Second, a recession in the amateur radio industry caused several advertisers to cut back or drop advertising. Some firms are now out of business. Third, paper costs more than doubled in 1996. Paper cost has since decreased somewhat but not back to early 1990's levels. Fourth, postage costs continue to escalate. I'm old enough to remember the 3 cent stamp and twice per day deliveries. Letters cost $0.32 now and we get one delivery per day - on a good day. At the same time that all of these negative financial changes were happening, our magazine grew in size (and cost) and we RTTY hobbyists decided to bicker and split ourselves between two organizations (ADRS and IDRA).

3. Interests: Our hobby interests have changed over the years. During Merrill Swan's time, the magazine concentrated on how to make mechanical machines work, new terminal unit (TU) designs, and operating, particularly DX and contests. This continued during Dusty's time but new digital stuff started appearing. Personal computers and bulletin board operations became the "hot" topics during Dee's time and interest in old TTY machines all but faded away. IBM-compatible PC's and software were major interests for Dale's magazine. Build-it-yourself articles became fewer and fewer during the 1980's and 90's. By the time of the ADRS/IDRA, the emphasis of the Digital Journal was dominated by discussion of commercially available software and DX and contest operation. As I noted above, much of the DX and contest reporting has now moved to Internet reflectors. If the new magazine is to survive, I must find something to print that is of interest to all of you!

These are the problems and challenges. I've done a lot of thinking about it and have a few ideas:

1. Let's try for a "leaner" (but not "meaner") magazine - less pages and fewer issues per year for now. I'll keep subscription prices down. How about four 16-page issues per year as a start?

2. Use the Internet. It's "free" and fast. But, give me copies of permanent data such as contest rules, results, and awards.

3. I need pictures. Looking back at 45 years of the *RTTY Journal*, photos are a very interesting part to me. It's great to see what you looked like years ago - when you had hair - or when it wasn't gray - and see the old RTTY machine and TU you used.

4. Is anyone doing construction anymore? If so, don't be bashful. We all like to read about new gadgets, even if we never do it ourselves.

5. "Hints and Kinks" problem solving is still needed and I can provide a printed permanent record.

6. I'm pleased and surprised to see a resurgence of interest on the Internet in mechanical machines. How about some articles about "steam RTTY"?

7. How about some humor? We used to have some cartoonists in RTTY. Any of you guys still around?

8. I do not intend to align the magazine with any group. Hobby clubs are fun but it always comes down to a few people doing the work - and lot of people complaining. If I do the work, I'm "King". If you want to do the work, I'll make you "King" and I'll be the "Varlet".

9. I will accept advertising and solicit new product announcement from all who are interested.

10. I will have a few columns but I'd prefer to have a good mix of different authors in each issue.

Future Plans

1. This short issue is the first step in the recovery of the ***The New RTTY Journal***. I hope to start regular printing this summer. I'm still working on details - what to print, subscription prices, ad fees, etc. I should have more definite information at Dayton.

2. ***The New RTTY Journal*** will continue sponsoring the CQ/RTTY Journal Sweepstakes DX Contest in the fall and the RTTY Journal WPX Contest in the winter. We could also participate in others if there is interest.

3. We will continue to sponsor activities at the Dayton Hamvention - room reservations, banquets, forum, and hospitality suite. As you will discover when reading the rest of this issue, this year's festivities are well under way. I also want to resume RTTY Journal support of West Coast meetings, starting with the San Diego Hamvention this August 14, 15, and 16. I am not sure that we can provide room reservations and banquets this time, but plan on a RTTY forum and hospitality suite at the minimum. I'd like to see this become an annual West coast affair at the Southwestern Division show in the fall.

4. Work continues on making a CD ROM recording of all back issues of the RTTY Journal. I will not have copies for sale at Dayton but should have some next fall. I've learned a lot about how to do it correctly!

Finally, a BIG thank you to my good friend Dale Sinner. Dale has agreed to come out retirement "one more time" and organize the Dayton gathering - and do booth duty for me as well. The editing of this magazine and most of the text you read in this issue is all Dale's work. Thanks, friend. Well, that's it for my column this issue. Look at the Dayton stuff and let's plan to meet at Dayton.

73 Bill
Email: ghenry@halcomm.com

New Location for HAL at Dayton

After fifteen years in the same space, HAL has changed its location. This year, we'll be in the "new" East Hall in booths 582 and up. The new location gives us 40 ft rather than 20 ft of booth space and hopefully it won't be as "elbow-to-elbow as in previous years. One of the booth spaces will be devoted to The New RTTY Journal. Here you will be able to find out more about the magazine plans. It will be a place for the digital types to meet or just hang out.

Contesters/DXers Dinner Dayton'98

Hello Contesters/DXers: I can't tell you what a pleasure it is to be able to write in the first addition of the New RTTY Journal. A 45 year old magazine coming back to life is a true miracle. Bill Henry, K9GWT, is responsible for this miracle and I personally want to extend my thanks for his part in making the New RTTY Journal become reality. From what I have heard the Journal may start off as a Quarterly magazine or Newsletter. However, if I know Bill like I think I know Bill; if he works on the New RTTY Journal like he builds TNC's, it will be bigger and better than we have ever seen before. I wish him all the luck in the world and if there is anything I can do, Bill can count on me.

This issue will pertain to Dayton '98. What's going to happen, where, what and when type of thing.

The annual Friday night Contesters/DXers dinner will be in action again this year. Details are shown in the AD on this page. Please get your reservations and payment to me as soon as possible so that we know how many meals to serve.

This year's after dinner program speaker will be Ray Ortgiesen, WF1B. He pomises a slide presentation about his outstanding CQ WW effort from P40TT last fall. Ray set a new world record in the low power category and he also topped the high power category, setting a new all time high score for Single Ops. This is one record I'm sure will hold for a while.

Plaques will be presented to winners of the CQ/RJ WW '97 contest and the 1998 World-Wide RTTY WPX contest. Door prizes will include the HAL P-38 modem, Writelog/Rttyrite software for Windows, and other goodies.

This year dinner tickets will be given at the door as you come in the Mayfair Room. About 1/4 of all dinner tickets were left at home last year. Conformation of all money received will be acknowledged if accompanied with an e-mail address.

One last minute announcement; we may have a talk and slide show from the KH5 Palmyra operation. We are not sure at this time what night this will take place.. More information will be forthcoming. As we get word we'll pass it along via The New RTTY Journal, WF1B reflector.

73, see ya at Dayton'98
de Ron K5DJ
Email: Ron-Stailey@easy.com

Get Digital Today!

RTTY Contesters DXers Dinner

Friday, May 15, 1998

Regency Ballroom, Quality Inn

no-host bar at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 6:30 *sharp*

Chicken Marsala

with Mushrooms and Marlsa Wine Sauce

Baked Potato

Vegetable

Garden Salad, Warm Bread, Beverage

After dinner festivities include:

* Plaque presentations for CQ/RJ WW '97 & WW RTTY WPX '98
* Slide Program by Ray Ortgiesen, WF1B CQ/RJ WW '97 from Aruba, P40TT
* Door prize drawings

Send a $20.00 check per person to:

Ron Stailey, K5DJ
504 Dove Haven Dr.
Round Rock, TX 78664-5926

Phone: 512-255-5000

Tickets will be issued *at the door*.

Old Horse

Bet you thought you were rid of me? Surprise! Surprise! Surprise! Just like an old horse you were going to get rid of soon, I'm still here. But, fortunately this may only be temporary. Bill has asked me to do this letter to announce his purchase of the journal and the Dayton particulars. I had already agreed to do the rooms this year and had planned on using the Internet to tell everyone. However, I realize not everyone is on the Internet so with this mailing we are sure to get to most all of those who were there last year and some who were not. Everything is sort of in an uproar since the breakup of the IDRA so I am trying to help Bill pull things back into some sort of order. There are a number of events which need to be organized and fortunately, some plans were already made last year. Ron Stailey, K5DJ, will handle the Friday night DX/Contesters dinner and Fred Groce, K0FG, will do the Saturday night RTTY Journal dinner. Only the rooms and the Dayton forum were left and I decided to handle both.

So, it is obvious that 1998 is well on it's way to being another successful Hamvention for us digital types. But, what about next year? Maybe Ron, Fred and I will wish to turn these different events over to someone else. If you have an interest in helping out with one of these events please let Bill know. He is trying to keep our group together but he will need lots of help from others.

Dale Sinner, W6IWO
dsinner@tfb.com

Preparing for Dayton

Thursday:

Most everyone is traveling toward Dayton. Upon arrival, if not too late, hopefully everyone will gather in the hotel lounge. Here you will get a chance to visit with many old friends and meet new ones. This is a casual get-together and you will surely enjoy these few brief moments. Usually, the activity starts anytime after 5:00 PM. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Friday:

The morning is open for you to do the things you wish. Many of you will probably be going over to the arena to hit the flea market providing the weather is nice. The early bird gets the worm they say, so obviously those who start out early will find the best deals. You may ask, how am I going to get to the arena? Our hotel will be providing bus transportation to and from the arena on a regular schedule starting at 7:00 AM. A schedule will be posted in the hotel lobby. You are on your own if you wish to get to the arena before this time.

Friday noon the Hamvention opens. We wish all of you the best in your buying endeavors. The arena will be a busy place for the next few hours. Enjoy!

Friday night a DX/Contesters dinner is planned. Ron Stailey, K5DJ, will be handling this affair. See his ad in this issue. Ron will have a speaker to entertain you and as always the dinner will outstanding.

After the dinner everyone is invited to gather in the hospitality room sponsored by The New RTTY Journal. We'll be taking pictures which will appear in the new journal. Bill Henry has indicated this will be a must. If you have attended before then you know how enjoyable this room will be. Boy, let me tell you, there will be lots of stories going back and forth (some probably even true).. The hospitality room will be open until about midnight.

Saturday:

It's back to the arena for more shopping, looking or drooling. The arena opens at 9:00 AM and closes at 5:00 PM.

A forum has been planned, however, at this point we are not sure due to some complications. It seems the there is a problem with the number of forum rooms available this year.

Saturday night the big RTTY Journal banquet will be held. A no host cocktail hour will start things rolling at 6:00 PM followed by dining at 7:00 PM. Fred Groce, K0FG, will be handling this event. See his ad in this issue. Fred tells me we will Jan Heise, K4QD, as our speaker. Jan has just returned from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where he particpated in the WPX contest. Jan has been there before and has some great slides to show us. You won't want to miss his presentation. Fred also tells us there will be a door prize.

After the dinner is over, you are invited back again to the RTTY Journal hospitality room. Here you will get a chance to brag about your acquisitions of the day. Maybe even plan towards next year. Or just plain visit with everyone there. The room will again be open until about midnight.

Sunday:

Some of you will headed for home while others will probably go back again to the arena for that last minute buy at your favorite booth. Whatever you do, we hope you enjoyed the Hamvention. See you next year!

There you have it. Plan on having a lot of fun at Dayton this year. See you there.

ROOM RESERVATION REQUEST

Dayton 1998

Fill out one (1) form for each room.

Please Print!

Name:

Addr:

Cty/ST:

Tel/FAX: (must be included)

This year the rooms are $99.00 per night. A deposit of $80.00 (toward the $99.00) must be paid up front to insure your reservation, plus a $2.00 handling fee imposed by me. I hope the $2.00 fee will cover all the phone calls, etc which will be needed. A room confirmation will be send to you by me shortly before the Hamvention. Your deposit will be returned if the room is canceled 72 hours before time of arrival.

How many nights:

Thurs. ☐

Fri. ☐

Sat. ☐

Sun. ☐

Other:(specify)

Smoking ☐ Non-smoking ☐

All rooms have two beds. If you prefer king size bed or need an extra bed please indicate.

Comments:

Return this form immediately to insure your room. Do not send this form to HAL or the hotel. This will only delay your request. Your canceled check will be your temporary receipt. Send to me at the address listed below. Make check payable to me. No credit cards accepted but you can charge your final bill at the hotel to a credit card.

Dale S.Sinner, W6IWO
1904 Carolton Lane
Fallbrook, CA
92028-4614

Tel/FAX: (760) 723-3838
E-mail - dsinner@tfb.com

Please contact me for any other arrangements, i.e. bank transfers, etc.

Dayton Hamvention dates: May 15,16, and 17

Change RTTY Journal Banquet address to
Fred Groce, K0FG
21844 Vineyard Hills
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-4234

RTTY Journal Dinner

Saturday, May 16, 1998

Regency Ballroom, Quality Inn

no-host bar at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 7:00 PM

Buffet style featuring:

Salad Bar

Roast Beef Au Jus, Baked Chicken

Rissolled Red Skin Potatoes, Green Beans

Bread, Beverage, Desert Table

After dinner festivities include:

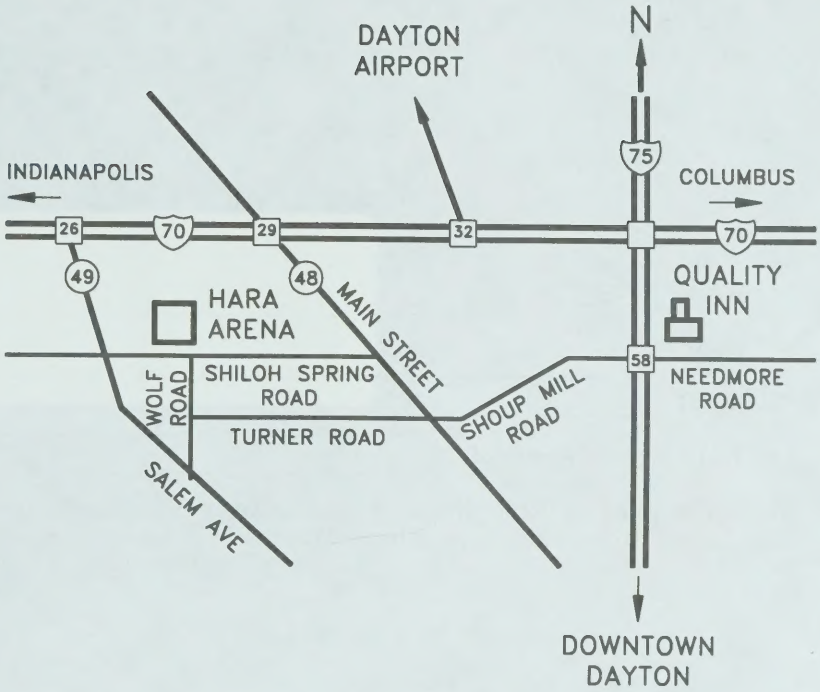
* Slide Program by Jan, K4QD and advent ures at Gitmo, Cuba

* Door prize drawings

Send a $25.00 check per person to:

Fred Grace, K9FG
21844 Vineyard Hills
Council Bluffs, IA 751503-4232
Phone: 712-322-0788

Tickets will be issued *at the door.*



DAYTON AREA

FACTS you should know

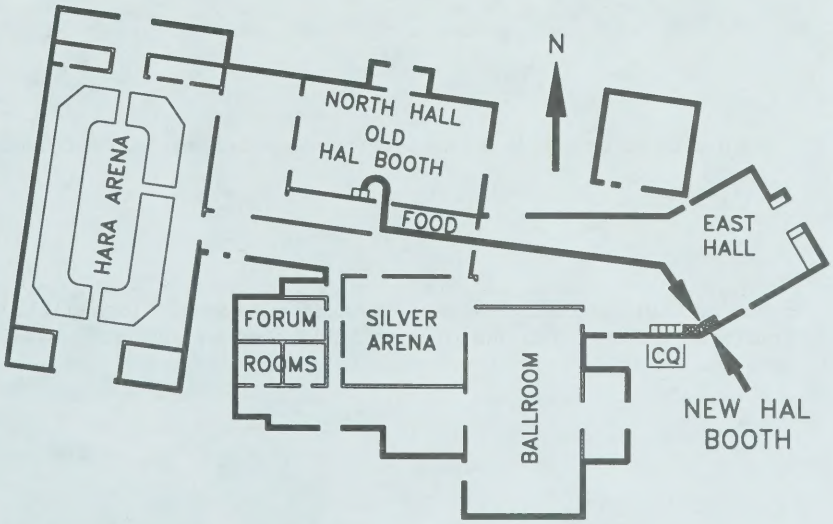
The two maps on this page show how to get to our hotel and around in Hara Arena. If you haven't been to Dayton before, be ready for traffic. Imagine35,000 hams jammed in cars, all talking on the radio at once. You get the idea - start early and plan ahead!

HOTEL:

Reservatons: Write or call Dale Sinner. Do not call the hotel directly. This only confuses everyone! See the form on center page.

Address: During the Dayton Hamvention, you can be found at:

Quality Inn
2401 Needmore Rd.
Needmore Rd. and I 75, exit 58.
Dayton, Ohio 45414
Tel: (937) 278-571
FAX: (937) 278-8048



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